

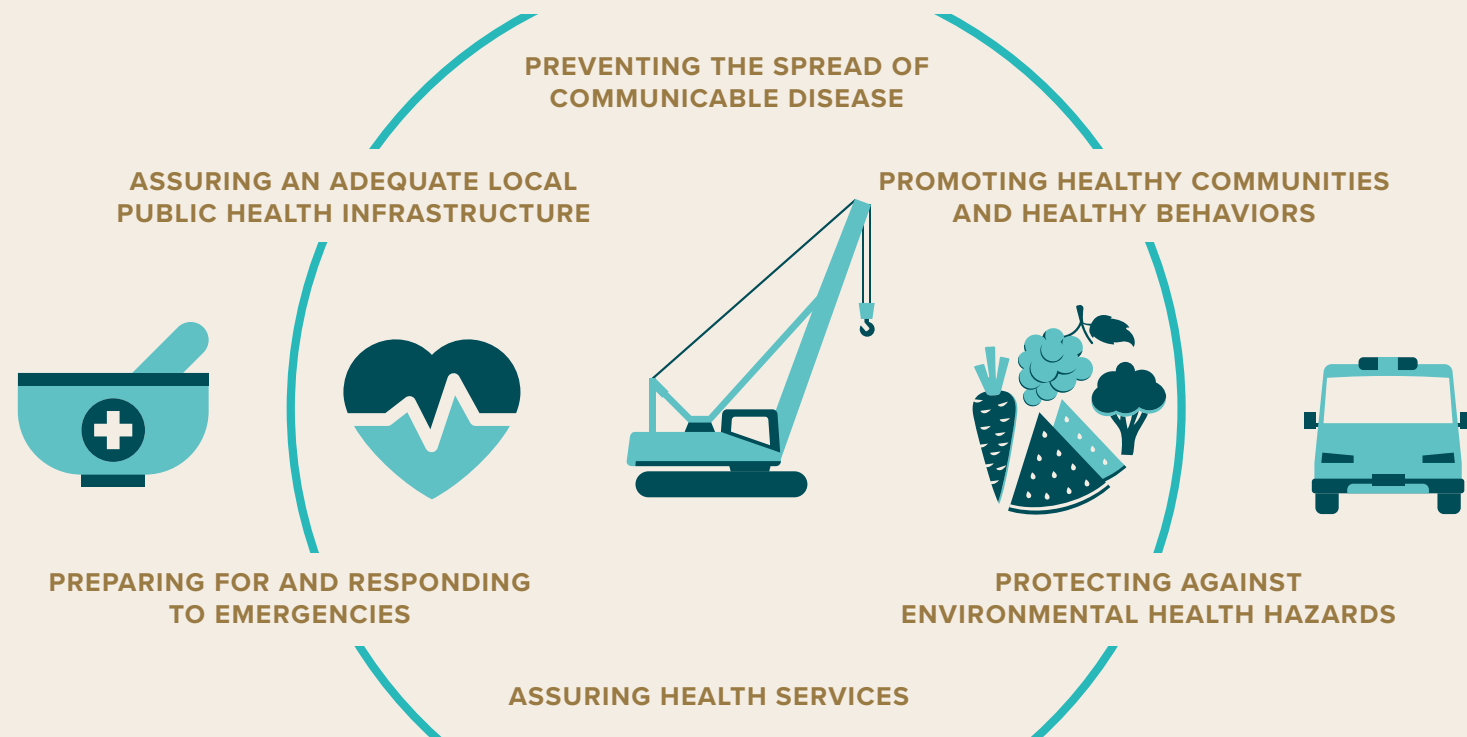
2020

# ST. LOUIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH'S RESPONSE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

While preparing for and responding to emergencies is a core role of Public Health, we have never before had to flex to provide this level of service for this long. We have focused our efforts on communicating facts, responding to needs, planning for future mitigation strategies, ensuring access to healthcare and necessary services and planning for the next phase.

The year began with a novel coronavirus that hadn't even been named. By mid-March we had our first cases of COVID-19 in St. Louis County and our first congregate care outbreaks in late March. We ended the year with our first COVID-19 vaccine clinics in late December. We have utilized our infrastructure, partnerships and skills to respond to this emergency, together.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM IN MINNESOTA RELIES ON A STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP AND FOCUSES ON SIX CORE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.



## THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, EVERY DIVISION OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

was committed to finding creative ways to continue their core work, and also exploring additional ways to leverage their expertise and people-power in collaborative responses with Public Health.



SERVICE CENTERS ARE CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN FOUR CITIES THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY. EACH CENTER PROVIDES ACCESS TO FINANCIAL, SOCIAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE ACCESS INFORMATION DURING COVID-19, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROTECTS, PROMOTES AND IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY THROUGH A DIVERSE SET OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND INITIATIVES THAT WORK AT ALL LEVELS AND THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY.



Our goal is to help people achieve a better life. We do this by helping people we serve overcome – or make progress despite – the obstacles blocking their paths to self-sufficiency, and by working in partnership to improve the health of our entire community.



**PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MN

# ECONOMIC SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

The Economic Services and Supports (ESS) Division administers state and federal programs that provide assistance to those in need. This includes medical care, food, cash, child care, child support, and emergency assistance.

## HEALTH CARE

- **969** children were able to access child care with child care assistance totaling just under **\$3 million**.
- ESS provided just over **\$600,000** in emergency assistance to **720** households.
- **42,236** low-income individuals received healthcare through Medical Assistance (Medicaid).

## CHILD SUPPORT

- This program encourages parents to be responsible for their children and promotes family self-sufficiency and child well-being.
- ESS handled **8,626** child support cases and collected **\$26.64 million**.

## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

- Provided to adults who are disabled, have a serious illness, or other issues limiting their ability to work.
- ESS served an average of **3,388** people each month.
- **\$5.6 million** provided to people from General Assistance and Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) cash.



## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

- Over **\$27.76 million** was issued for SNAP.
- Employees served an average of **10,525** people and **9,539** households, with an average benefit of **\$242.52** per month.

## MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

- The Minnesota Family Investment Program provided **\$13.65 million** in support, with an average of **3,035** individuals served each month.

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Children and Family Services Division works with children and their families, with the goal of keeping children in their homes and in the care of people with whom they have an existing relationship. We partner with families to provide preventive services, supportive resources, intervention, and, when necessary, placements to ensure safety, permanency and well-being for children.

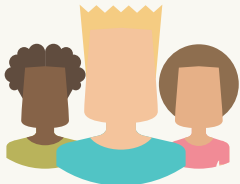
- **1,649** children were served in voluntary prevention programs
- **193** children were served through mental health case management

## CHILD CARE

- **6** new home family child care providers were licensed, for a total of **184** family child care homes

## CHILD PROTECTION

- **3,682** children were subjects of a screened-in maltreatment report
- Of the **372** continuous placements that were discharged in 2020, **186** reunited with their family, for **73** children, custody was transferred to a relative, **47** children had adoptions finalized, **33** reached the age of majority, and **31** were living with relatives.
- **393** children entered out-of-home placement during 2020, and there were a total of **947** children in out-of-home placement at some point during the year.



# ADULT SERVICES

The Adult Services Division provides assistance to adults with chemical health and mental health needs, those over 65 who need support, and adults and children with intellectual and physical disabilities. We also protect vulnerable adults from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- **718** adults and **196** children were served through mental health case management
- **291** individuals were screened for civil commitment as ordered by the courts, resulting in **201** individuals civilly committed for mental illness, chemical dependency or both
- **165** individuals were supported through community-based mental health services (ACT and T-ACT)
- **153** individuals were supported through intensive case management as part of treatment courts
- **1,300** chemical dependency assessments were completed by SLC, including correctional settings (**299** of which were in jail or NERCC) and in coordination with child protection

## ADULT PROTECTION

- **1,817** reports were received for adult protection with **238** cases opened
- **201** people served through guardianship and **102** individuals through rep payee services



# HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

## FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, CHRONIC ILLNESS, BRAIN INJURIES & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

- St. Louis County employees triaged **7,840** calls in MnCHOICES Intake
- **1,393** new/initial MnCHOICES assessments were completed, connecting people to a variety of services
- **786** people were served with Developmental Disabilities Waiver
- **1,480** people were served with Disability Waivers (CADI, CAC, BI) (State FY 2020)
- **72** people received Semi-Independent Living Services (SILS)
- **36** children/young adults were helped with a Family Support Grant

# HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- In the Duluth area, CHUM expanded 24/7 drop in space for **60-70** people per night and an additional **40** individuals accessed the warming center each night.
- In northern communities, hotel vouchers were utilized to serve as warming centers/spaces. **78** individuals were served by AEOA through hotel vouchers accounting for **1,032** nights in 2020.
- To provide emergency, supportive, and transitional housing, St. Louis County applies for and coordinates over **\$1 million** through competitive state and federal funding to support local community organizations.
- **\$7.7 million** was spent over the past year in housing support payments to providers that reduce and prevent homelessness in our community.
- Completed **999** pre-screens for housing and **1,232** housing assessments
- Referred **847** individuals to shelter and domestic violence referrals
- Provided **486** prevention referrals to community organizations
- **1,589** households in need of housing remained on the coordinated entry wait list



# THE LIVES WE TOUCHED IN 2020

## LOCAL COVID-19 FUNDING SUPPORT

ECONOMIC SERVICES & SUPPORTS WAS INVOLVED IN COORDINATING, PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR, AND DISTRIBUTING ALMOST

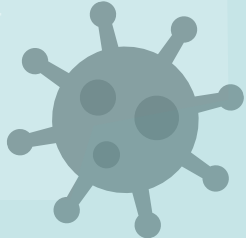
**\$11M** IN CARES FUNDING and over **\$1.8M** IN CHAPS FUNDING

to support local organizations and further local COVID-19 response.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY HELPED TO COORDINATE OVER

**\$1.6M** IN FUNDING TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS

without an alternative place to isolate or quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic.



OFFERING COVID-19 GUIDANCE TO OUR COMMUNITY

ST. LOUIS COUNTY PHHS STAFF FIELDIED AND RESPONDED TO OVER

**1,015**

calls on the COVID-19 hotline.

**18** LIAISONS WORKED WITH over **1,050** ORGANIZATIONS

Throughout the pandemic, School Liaisons have been guiding **29** public, private, and charter schools through the Minnesota Department of Health guidance – consulting on protocols, assisting in testing and contact tracing, helping mitigate outbreaks, providing resources, and helping schedule vaccines.

**89**

INDIVIDUALS

needed temporary shelter for isolation and quarantine.



**108**

REQUESTS

for essential items (food, clothing, medication, etc.) for COVID-19 positive individuals in isolation.



**234**

ADMISSIONS

to our isolation and quarantine sites.



## PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES DURING THE PANDEMIC

## PUBLIC HEALTH

HERE IS SOME OF WHAT OUR PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2020 DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

**29,619** TOTAL HOURS SPENT IN 2020 BY PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES STAFF ON COVID-19 RESPONSE.

## CLINICAL SERVICES

**4** INFECTION CONTROL NURSES

provided intensive infection control assessment and guidance to long-term care facilities. The team worked with healthcare systems across the county to develop a rapid notification and response to suspect or COVID-19 positive cases in long-term care settings. The team assisted the Minnesota Department of Health in case management when outbreaks were identified.

## TESTING

Our local public health department developed a system for community testing, a system for public safety testing and responded to community outbreaks.

THERE WERE

**202,231** TOTAL COVID-19 TESTS administered in SLC in 2020 with **1,759** being administered by our nurses.

WE BEGAN ROLLING OUT THE COVID-19 VACCINES IN THE COUNTY IN DECEMBER 2020,

with **286** first doses before year end.



## MESSAGING CAMPAIGNS

WORKED TO DEVELOP CAMPAIGNS AROUND PROPER STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

OFFERED SCIENCE-BASED RESOURCES FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING VACCINE HESITANCY